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June 28, 1991 RIGHTS
SALT LAKE

Robert L. Morgan, P.E.
Utah State Engineer
1636 W. North Temple, Suite 220
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-3156

RE: Utah Lake drainage basin distribution

Dear Mr. Morgan,

When I review your preliminary proposal, it appears that its principle product may be waste of our valuable water resources. To the extent that your proposal would store water in Utah Lake for downstream flood irrigation sooner than is necessary or at a time when upstream storage is available it would cause unnecessary loss by evaporation.

It would appear somewhat obvious when 52.4% of all water reaching Utah Lake is lost on average that a better way should be available as a solution. Instead of priority storage the lake should be kept at a minimum level and downstream users supplied by direct flow. As long as there is upstream storage available no storage beyond minimum level in Utah Lake would appear necessary.

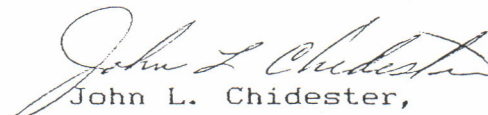
The latest studies reflect a high percentage of recharge from irrigation in the higher valley's but very little useable recharge in Salt Lake Valley.

It makes very little sense to me to have to waste 3 gallons of water in order to provide Salt Lake Valley with one useable gallon which due to their location is largely consumed through evaporation and loss to the Great Salt Lake.

There appears to be a solution that could avoid this terrible waste and that is to install pressurized nighttime sprinkler irrigation fed by direct flows in the lower valley's especially in Salt Lake Valley.

I realize your mandate to define water and storage rights and the near impossible job you have, however, you have an equal or even greater obligation to prevent unnecessary waste. The savings of one gallon in Salt Lake Valley actually represents a savings of 4 or 5 gallons in the upper basins. Conservancy of water in the upper valley's though appropriate avoids such a tiny amount of loss when compared with the savings in the lower valley. I feel that your agency should do all within its power to compel a change in the manner of irrigation use by all irrigation systems below Utah Lake and delay and limit storage in Utah Lake.

Respectfully submitted,


John L. Chidester,
Attorney at Law
Wasatch County